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The Signal



Friday, October 19, 2007

Published for the Department of Defense and the Fort Gordon community

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News UPDATE

Concert performances

The United States Army Signal Corps Band and Augusta State University's Wind Ensemble will perform at 7 p.m. **Nov. 1** at the Imperial Theater, 745 Broad Street, Augusta. The performance will feature the "Boogie Sisters" with a "Military Music Through the Ages" theme. The band will also perform 7 p.m., **Nov. 8** at the Imperial Theater with guest artist Mark Clodfelter, a world-class trumpeter. Together, they will perform the "Sonata for Trumpet." Both events are free and open to the public on a first come, first served basis.

For information call (706) 791-3113.

Disability Employment Awareness

In observance of National Disability Employment Awareness Month the EEO Office, Army Community Service and the Special Emphasis Program Committee has scheduled a National Disability Employment Awareness Luncheon/Workshop noon, **Oct. 23** at the Gordon Club.

The guest speaker will be Ed Catchings, Human Resource Development/Continued Quality Improvement at the Georgia Department of Labor.

Attendees who desire lunch will have an opportunity to go through the buffet line beginning at 11:30 a.m.

For more information, call Tonja Deans at (706) 791-4551.

Retiree appreciation

The Fort Gordon Retirement Services Office will host Retiree Appreciation Day activities Nov. 3 in honor of military retirees from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Reserves and National Guard.

Events begin with an opening ceremony 8 a.m. in Darling Hall. Registration for the event is at 7:15 a.m. A luncheon will be held 12:45 - 2:30 p.m. at the Gordon Club.

Over 35 organizations are scheduled to participate.

For more information, call (706) 791-2654/4774.



Capt. Sharron Stewart 35th Signal Brigade

Honor, respect and the love of country are the main reasons many Soldiers join the Army, but they are also

the main reasons the 14 Augusta residents participated in the Augusta in Army Boots program which was hosted by the 35th Signal Brigade Oct. 11-12.

During an intense 24-hour

period the civilians were "transformed" into Soldiers and had the opportunity to under go marksmanship training, learn tactics, eat Meals Ready to Eat, learn about Joint Network Node communications equipment in addition to receiving training on night vision goggles.

Tonya Bieda, an education counselor with the University of Phoenix, said she participated in the AIAB program because she wanted to gain first-hand knowledge of what Soldiers under go on a day-to-day basis. "I wanted to be able to have a better understanding of what Soldiers go through so I could have a better appreciation of their sacrifice," Bieda said. "Many of our clients are in the Army and I'm hoping that going through this will help me to be better able to serve them," she said.

The AIAB participants started out on their journey by meeting at Dining Facility 13 where they were welcomed by their sponsors and by Col. John Baker, 35th Signal Brigade commander. "It's absolutely criti-

"Now you have walked in our shoes, that's the best thanks that we can get."

Col. John Baker
35th Signal Brigade commander

cal that we set ourselves up for success in the Army and that comes from practice," Baker said during his introduction.

According to Pat Buchholz, a civilian with the Fort Gordon plans, analysis, and integration office, since its inception in 2000, over 200 civilians have participated in the AIAB program. Buchholz, who shared with the audience that she was a proud "Army brat," said "I once had a commander who said fewer than one-tenth of one percent of the population has chosen to do what they do. Now is your chance to find out why."

She also told the group that the U. S. Army Signal Center and School is the Armed Forces largest information technology and training school.

"We [Fort Gordon] have a great relationship with the community. Thank you, we appreciate you for being here today," Buchholz said.

Megan Pauley, an intern with the Headquarters Department

of the Army Chief Information Office/G-6, said she chose to participate because she wanted to get a different perspective on the Army. "I work for the Army as a civilian who wears a suit everyday, this was a chance for me to see what the Soldiers have to go through. It was a great experience, I enjoyed the fact that we came together as a team towards the end," said Pauley, whose favorite part of the experience was learning about improvised explosive devices.

The experience culminated with a graduation ceremony at the Bicentennial Chapel where the participants were pinned with the honorary rank of second lieutenant by Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Foley, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commanding general.

"Now you have walked in our shoes, that's the best thanks that we can get," Baker said. At the conclusion of Baker's speech, the civilians gave their Soldier sponsors a standing ovation.



Photo by Pfc. William Norris

Civilians participating in the Augusta in Army Boots program await their turn to learn the ups and downs of modern combative skills at Fort Gordon Oct. 11.

Combined Federal Campaign lagging

Charmain Z. Brackett
Correspondent

Although Fort Gordon's Combined Federal Campaign is scheduled to end today, donations will be accepted for a few more weeks.

"We plan to wrap it up and have our end of campaign celebration by mid-November," said Terry Smith, deputy garrison commander.

This year's campaign has a goal of \$600,000, and Smith said that pledges have been coming in slowly.

"It's an ambitious goal, but it's less than what we raised last year," he said.

Last year's campaign brought in \$606,993; a tremendous increase over the \$400,000 goal set.

"We blew the top off," he said.

Smith said key workers should get pledge cards turned in as soon as possible because there are incentive gifts that need to be distributed to donors. He said he's heard from donors who filled out pledge cards weeks ago, but have yet to receive their gifts.

Thousands of charities benefit from the CFC. Locally, the Fisher House and Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers receive donations through the CFC. There are numerous organizations from children's welfare agencies and health research charities to conservation groups which benefit through the CFC, he said.

Donating is easy and affordable. "How easy it is to give through the payroll deduction," he said. "You can give a couple of bucks each pay period."

Terry riding off to retirement

Bonnie Heater
Signal staff

You can read what is of value to Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Terry, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon command sergeant major on the door of his 9th floor Signal Towers office.

The door features "The Soldiers Creed," "The Warrior Ethos," and the "Creed of the Noncommissioned Officer."

See Retirement, page 12

Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Terry, U.S. Army Signal Center command sergeant major, takes an early morning bike ride on Chamberlain Avenue Oct. 17.



Photo by Spc. Stephen Alderete

Grateful heart encourages sacrifice

Charmain Z. Brackett
Correspondent

The son of Mexican immigrants, Spc. Edwin Carrasco has a grateful heart to the United States of America.

"This country gave my parents a lot of opportunities. It gave my parents the chance to become citizens. They sacrificed for me," said Spc. Carrasco, 23, who joined the Army as a way of saying thank you. "I want to sacrifice for my country and Family."

Carrasco's parents, Rosario and Ildefonso Carrasco, raised their three sons, Edel, Edwin and Edgar in Watsonville, Calif.

Carrasco joined the Army more than three years ago as a cook. In July, he was on his second tour to Iraq when he was wounded in a roadside bomb explosion.

He received numerous injuries to his arms and face and has undergone many surgeries; he's currently in the active duty rehab unit at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

On Sept. 28, Carrasco received a Purple Heart Medal for his wounds. On that day, he said he was thinking of two men, Pfc. LeRon Wilson and Sgt. Gene Lamie, who died in the explosion.

"I'm overwhelmed today thinking about my two comrades," he said after the Purple Heart ceremony. Carrasco said he's focusing on healing from his wounds. He's not sure how much longer he'll be at the VA, but he will be ready to return to his unit when he's completely healed.

"I'll go back to Fort Stewart and give it my all," he said.

Carrasco said he's received great care at the Dwight David Eisenhower Army Medical Center and the VA and has been touched by the generosity of those outside the hospital community who have given to him and fellow Soldiers there. Special outings have helped keep up his morale.

"It's been hard dealing with the injuries, but it gets better every day," he said.



Photo by Charmain Z. Brackett

Spc. Edwin Carrasco is recuperating at the Augusta Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Welcome supporters

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Foley, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commanding general welcomes members of the Georgia Military Affairs Coordinating Committee to the post Oct. 15. Also present at the session were Joe Capps, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon deputy commander, and Brig. Gen. Donald Bradshaw, commanding general of Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center and the Southeast Regional Medical Command. The Georgia Military Affairs Coordinating Committee meets on a quarterly basis, rotating among the military installations in Georgia. After receiving an overview of the installation's missions, the group visited General Dynamics' representatives at Brant Hall, 15th Signal Brigade representatives at a forward operating base, and with representatives from the Training Support Center where they observed a demonstration of training aids produced by the TSC. Members of the committee include local community advocate group representatives including Thom Tuckey and Ron Thigpen, both with the CSRA Alliance.



Photo by Siobhan Carllile

Motorcycle safety campaign continues

Russ Blandin
Safety Officer

Fort Gordon Military Police are continuing a safety campaign begun recently to emphasize motorcycle safety on the installation. Earlier this month police began setting up checkpoints at the entrance gates and within the installation to check motorcycle riders for compliance with Fort Gordon and state regulations. In addition to meeting the licensing requirements of the state of Georgia, motorcycle riders entering Fort Gordon must also carry a Motorcycle Safety Foundation card that verifies their completion of a basic or experienced rider course. The Army standard motorcycle rider's course is an MSF-based course, is offered weekly by the Fort Gordon Safety Office, and is free to military personnel, civilian employees, retirees and contract employees. All people who live or work on Fort Gordon must register their vehicles and place the decals on the windshield.

The following equipment is required for motorcycle riders on Fort Gordon:

- helmets certified to meet Department of Transportation standards,
- impact or shatter-resistant goggles, wraparound glasses or full face shield properly attached to the helmet,
- sturdy footwear, such as leather boots or over the ankle shoes,
- long-sleeved shirt or jacket, long trousers and full fingered gloves designed for use with a motorcycle,
- a brightly-colored upper garment during the day and a reflective upper garment during hours of darkness.

Military uniforms do not meet the criteria of a brightly-colored garment, so reflective material such as a vest, is required with the Army Combat Uniform during the day. A reflective belt worn diagonally across the chest is adequate for the requirement. These requirements are not new and are standard throughout the Army, according to the Fort Gordon Safety Office.

Muscular Dystrophy Association offers free flu shots

Bob Mackle
Muscular Dystrophy Association

TUCSON, Ariz. — Continuing a service it has provided for decades, the Muscular Dystrophy Association again is offering flu shots to people who have any of more than 40 neuromuscular diseases. Such muscle wasting diseases, especially those that progress in severity, can damage muscles involved with breathing. Catching the flu is particularly hazardous for those with muscular dystrophies, spinal muscular atrophy and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease). Valerie Cwik, MDA's vice president for research and its medical director, said, "Both adults and children with neuromuscular diseases may already have weakened respiratory systems. MDA provides flu shots to reduce their likelihood of developing another, possibly life-threatening illness." Individuals affected by a neuromuscular disease should consult their MDA clinic physicians or primary care doctors before receiving the influenza vaccine. For information, contact the nearest MDA office; call (800) 572-1717; or visit www.mda.org.

MDA is a voluntary health agency working to defeat more than 40 neuromuscular diseases through programs of

worldwide research, comprehensive services, and far-reaching professional and public health education.

The Association's programs are funded almost entirely by individual private contributors.



At 9 a.m. on **Oct. 27**, the Marines of Fort Gordon and the surrounding Augusta community will begin a run to commemorate the more than 1050 Marines and Corpsmen that made the ultimate sacrifice while serving as part of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. This tribute will begin with a brief ceremony, as the Commanding Officer of the Marine Detachment orders 21-rounds to be delivered to the firing detail that will be formed on **Nov. 9**. The first runner at that time will begin the first of the over 1050 laps around Barton Field. As each runner completes their lap the 21-rounds will be passed on to the next Marine or Sailor. This process will be repeated over 1050 times until a lap has been completed for each of the fallen

Marines and Sailors. The final lap will be run by the entire compliment of Marines and Sailors that participated in the event. The tribute will end at approximately 9 a.m. **Nov. 9**, when the 21-rounds will be handed over to the firing detail and a 21-gun salute is rendered, followed by the playing of taps and the singing of the Marine's Hymn. A Marine or Sailor will be on the track running 24 hours a day for the entire 13 day duration. The run will cover over 2100 miles and will take over 300 hours to complete. We undertake this journey to remember our fallen brothers and sisters that are now part of our Corps' history and to honor their sacrifice.

Pharmacy Week provides education opportunities

Capt. Brandi Schuyler
Nuclear Pharmacy chief

Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center pharmacists will celebrate National Pharmacy Week from Oct. 22-27 in order to underscore the new and vital roles they play in the provision of excellence in Family and patient care.

“Many consumers are not aware that pharmacists play a critical role in preventing medication errors and working directly with patients to ensure they understand how to use their medications safely and effectively,” said Maj. Lana Davis, Inpatient Pharmacy Services chief. “Pharmacy Week is a great way to educate the public about how pharmacists can help them get the most benefit from their medicine.”

Patients with questions about their medications don’t have to worry about where to get information. Pharmacists are their best and most accessible medication experts.

“When the patient asks important questions and keeps the pharmacist up-to-date on all prescription as well as nonprescription medications being taken, the pharmacist can monitor treatment and help ensure a healthy result,” said Capt. Paul Kassebaum, Chief of Outpatient Pharmacy Services.

A number of factors have led to pharmacists taking on enhanced patient-care roles including the deployment of highly trained, certified technicians and new technologies like robotics that dispense medications. As technology evolves—such as the addition of machine-readable codes to medication labels—patients will have greater opportunities to have a pharmacist involved in their care.

Pharmacists are experts on the thousands of medications available today, how each one works in the body, and the ways to use each one safely and effectively. Today’s graduating pharmacists receive six years of education focused on medication therapy, and many pharmacists practicing in hospitals and health systems also complete post-graduate residency programs.



Photo by Kathleen Haskell

Pfc. Bridgette Walton, Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center, utilizes the AccuMed equipment in DDEAMC’s Outpatient Pharmacy to precisely dispense medication into a pill bottle.

New regulations allow full replacement value

Fort Gordon Claims Office

Effective this Fall, Department of Defense Customers, including both service members and civilians, will be eligible for Full Replacement Value protection on most DoD funded personal property shipments. FRV coverage will apply to personal property shipments with a pickup date on or after: Oct. 1 for International shipments, to/from OCONUS; Nov. 1 for Domestic shipments (within CONUS); March 1, 2008 for Non-Temporary Storage shipments; and March 1, 2008 for Local Move / Direct Procurement Method shipments.

FILING YOUR CLAIM WITH THE CARRIER

Under the FRV program, if you file your claim directly with the carrier within nine months from delivery, the carrier will settle the claim by repairing or paying to repair damaged items. For items that are lost or destroyed, the carrier will either replace the item with a new item, or pay the full, undepreciated replacement cost. A few large items, such as pianos, organs, ATVs, personal watercraft, vehicles and motorcycles, as well as firearms and objects of art are only covered up to their fair market value, rather than their full replacement value. Also, there are some items that simply cannot be replaced with new ones because of their age or rarity, such as collectible figurines, antiques, collectible plates, baseball cards, comic books, and coin and stamp collections. The carrier has the right to replace these items with the same or comparable item, or pay the replacement cost of the item.

On full replacement value claims, the carrier is liable for the greater of \$5,000 per shipment or \$4.00 times the net weight of the shipment (in pounds), up to a maximum limit of \$50,000. If the full replacement value of your property is more than \$50,000, you

may be able to obtain additional FRV coverage at your own expense from a private insurance company or from the carrier, if the carrier offers such coverage.

In addition, if you file your claim directly with the carrier within nine months of delivery, the carrier will be responsible for obtaining all repair and replacement costs.

If you file your claim directly with the carrier more than nine months after delivery, the carrier will only pay the depreciated replacement cost or repair cost, whichever is less. Also, the carrier will not be responsible for obtaining repair or replacement estimates and the carrier will not pay more than \$1.25 times the weight of the shipment. For example, if you filed a claim on a 10,000 pound shipment ten months after delivery, the carrier would not be required to pay more than \$12,500, even if the entire shipment is missing.

Finally, if you file your claim directly with the carrier, you will probably have to file your claim by mail. You should send claims to the carrier using certified mail/return receipt requested so that you have a record of the date on which you submitted the claim and proof that the carrier received it. Once the carrier receives your claim, it will have up to 60 days to pay, deny or make a final written offer. Once you have settled the claim, the carrier will have 30 days to make the payment.

FILING YOUR CLAIM WITH THE MILITARY CLAIMS OFFICE

You may still file your claims directly with the Fort Gordon Claims Office. However, if you do, you will give up your right to have the carrier settle your claim on the basis of full replacement value. The Fort Gordon Claims Office will settle your claim by paying the depreciated replacement or repair cost, whichever is less. In any case, the Fort Gor-

don Claims Office is available to assist you in filing your claim and DD Form 1840R with the carrier, and can advise you on whether an offer from a carrier is reasonable.

If you file your claim directly with the carrier within nine months of delivery and you are dissatisfied with the carrier’s final offer, or if you do not receive a final offer within thirty days, you may transfer your claim to the Fort Gordon Claims Office. However, the Army cannot pay you the full replacement value immediately. On transferred FRV claims, the Army will pay you the depreciated replacement cost or repair cost, and then try to recover the full replacement value from the carrier. Once the Army has recovered the full replacement value from the carrier, the Army will then pay you the difference between what it recovered from the carrier and the amount it has already paid you.

NOTICE OF LOSS OR DAMAGE

Providing prompt notice of loss and damage will still be an essential part of the new claims process, whether you file your claim directly with the carrier or file it with the military claims office.

You must ensure the carrier’s delivery agent lists all loss and damage discovered at delivery on the DD Form 1840. Any loss or damage discovered after delivery must be listed on the DD Form 1840R (listing all damaged and missing items discovered AFTER delivery) and either mailed directly to the carrier within 75 days of delivery (preferably by certified mail/return receipt requested) or submitted to the Fort Gordon Claims Office within 70 days of delivery so that the claims office can dispatch it to the carrier for you within the 75 day limit. We recommend you bring the DD Form 1840R to the claims office rather than mailing it directly to the carrier. The claims office will keep a copy of the DD 1840R establishing the date you provided notice to the carrier. Sub-

mitting the DD Form 1840R merely gives the carrier notice that you have damage for which you may submit a claim, it is not the same as filing a claim.

The carrier has the right to inspect the damaged items once it receives the notice forms. Normally the carrier will arrange to inspect your goods within 45 days of receipt of the DD Form 1840R, but it has the right to inspect damaged items up until the claim is finally settled. Please cooperate with the carrier in arranging a time for such inspections.

Remember, although there is no additional cost to the customer for FRV coverage under the new program, you must file your claim directly with the carrier within nine months of delivery to receive FRV. This is in addition to filing the DD Form 1840R within 75 days of delivery.

Finally, regardless of whether you file directly with the carrier or with a military claims office, you must file your claim within two years of delivery. You may mail or take your claim to the Fort Gordon Claims Office, if you want to file directly with the military, or if you need assistance in filing with the carrier.

The Fort Gordon Claims Office is located in Building 29718, Winship Hall, on B Street, and accepts walk-ins from 8 -11:30 a.m. and 12:30 - 3 p.m. Monday – Friday.

You can also call the Claims Office at (706) 791-3630. The Claims Office is closed for Federal and Training Holidays.

Community Events

Aiken Jaycees state fair

Rides, monster truck shows, demolition derby, arts and crafts, games, horticulture shows, etc.

Event will be held 5 - 11 p.m. and noon to midnight week-ends **Oct. 18-27** at the Aiken Fairgrounds, U.S. Hwy 1, Aiken, S.C.

For admission prices and details on concerts, go to www.westerncarolinastatefair.com/index.php.

Augusta Lynx Hockey

The game will be held 7:35 p.m. **Oct. 19** at the James Brown Arena at the Augusta-Richmond County Civic Center, 601 Seventh Street, Augusta.

For ticket information call (706) 724-4423 or visit www.augustalynx.com/tickets/individual/

The Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation will have 200 free tickets available for all home games. These tickets will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis for all military. They may be picked up at Darling Hall, Room 337, Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. To arrange for a block of tickets for a unit or group, call (706) 791-6779.

Boshears Skyfest 2007

High-flying entertainment for everyone is offered by the Boshears Skyfest **Oct. 20-21** at historical Daniel Field at the intersection of Wrightsboro Road and Highland Avenue.

The show includes the airshow, aviation history tent, food, kid’s rides and activi-ties, helicopter rides, exhib-its, and a 10K and kid’s fun run.

Active duty military, reserv-ists, and retired military are admitted at a reduced price with their military I.D. Gates open at 9 a.m. with opening ceremonies each day at 1:30 p.m.

For information visit www.boshears.com.

Sweet Potato Fest ’07

“Sweet Potatoes Like You’ve Never Had Them Before!” Food, games, arts and crafts, entertainment and fun for the entire Family. Event will be held 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., **Oct. 20** at the Jackson-ville Community Park, Huber Clay Road, State Road #66, Langley, S.C. Continuous entertainment and free admission. For information call (803) 593-9260 or visit www.midlandvalleyarea.com

Colonial Times “A Day to Remember”

Watch our Colonial past come to life through demon-strations and living exhibits 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., **Oct. 20** and 10:15 a.m. - 4 p.m., **Oct. 21** . Featured attractions include a tomahawk throw, butter churning, weaving, quilting, candle making, skirmishes, musket and cannon firing demos, silversmithing, 18th century instruments and music, pottery and a petting zoo.

This free event will be held at the Living History Park, 229 West Spring Grove Avenue, North Augusta, S.C.

For information call (803) 279-7560.

“Beware what you ask of a fairy”

Storyland Theatre presents this musical at 9:30 a.m., 10:45 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. on Tuesday through Friday, and the Saturday matinee at 3 p.m., **Oct. 23-27** This production will take place at the Imperial Theater located at 749 Broad Street, Augusta. Saturday Family matinees are free to active duty military personnel and their Families.

For information call (706) 736-3455 or visit

www.knology.net/~storyland/.

Georgia-Carolina State fair

Besides all the rides, livestock exhibits, talent competitions, pageants, arts and crafts exhibits and great-tasting food, this fair includes the “Wambold’s Circus Menagerie” with the “Swampmaster Gator Show” and “Roo” the kangaroo. The fair will be held **Oct. 25 – Nov. 4** at the Exchange Club Fairgrounds, 301 Hale St., Augusta.

For information call (706) 722-0202 or visit www.georgiacarolinastatefair.com.

Horror movies series

To prepare yourself for Halloween, watch these free double features 7 p.m., **Oct. 26-28** at the Performing Arts Center, 7022 Evans Town Center, Evans. On Oct. 26, watch “Sleepy Hollow” and “The Ring.” “The Poltergeist and “The Shining” will be shown on Oct. 27 and will be followed on Oct. 28 with “Frankenstein” and “Dracula.”

For information call (706) 312-7194.

Freedom Park School PTO safety fair

This event is open to all students of Freedom Park and will be held 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., **Oct. 27** on the school grounds. Fort Gordon’s Fire Department will teach fire safety, and the Military Police will be there to teach “Stranger Danger,” pedestrian safety, etc. Bring your children and let them learn how to be safe while having fun.

Animania! pet fair

An event for animal lovers and their pets will include a pet/owner look-alike contest, training demonstrations, costume contest, “Mutt Strutt” dog parade, blessing of the animals with prizes and giveaways.

This free event will be held 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., **Oct. 27** at Columbia County Memorial Garden, 7022 Evans Town Center Boulevard (behind the library), Evans.

For information call (706) 312-7194 or (706) 312-7194.

Jack-O-Lantern Jubilee

This event features games, rides, food, crafts, live entertainment and a children’s costume contest. The event is free and fun for the whole family. It will be held 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., **Oct 27** on Georgia Avenue in down-town North Augusta.

For information call (803) 441-4300.

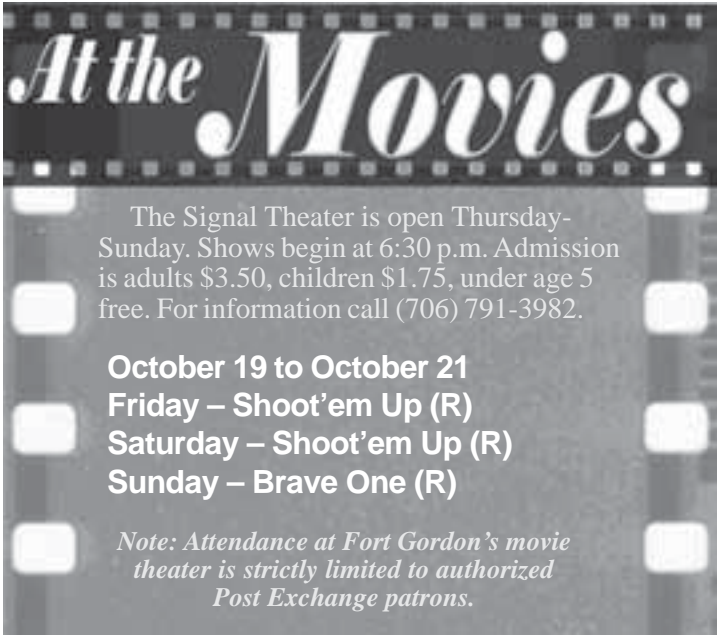
“Spirits of Hallowed Eve”

Walk amongst the ghosts of yesteryear in this Colonial setting 6 p.m. - 9 p.m., **Oct 27** in the Living History Park located at 229 West Spring Grove Avenue, North Au-gusta. Guided tours are free but reservations are required by calling 803-832-4723. Entertainment, including ghost stories, will also be held in the “Tavern.” Children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Fort Discovery’s Halloween Spooktacular

This event will be held 2 p.m. - 5 p.m., **Oct. 27** at One Seventh Street on the Riverwalk, Augusta. The staff of Fort Discovery will wel-come all you ghosts and goblins.

The event features a costume parade, weird science demos, make and take activities, door prizes and goody bags to the first 500 kids. Admission is half



price and free for members.

For information call (706) 821-0200.

“Trick or Treat so others can eat”

This fun-filled event will be held 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., **Oct. 30** at Patriots Park gym, located at 5445 Columbia Rd., Grovetown.

The admission cost is a canned good, which will be given to local food banks. The trick-or-treaters will be given candy by local busi-nesses and provided hot dogs and soda while supplies last. For information call (706) 312-7194.

Columbia County merchants fall fair

Features world famous Drew Exposition with 150 foot mega drop, “All the King’s Horses Show, Robinson’s Racing Pigs, and plenty of fun rides, music and entertainment. Gates open weekdays at 5 p.m., Satur-days at 12 p.m and Sunday at 1 p.m., **Nov. 1-10**.

The fair will be held at the Columbia County Fair-grounds, across from

Patriot’s Park at 5445 Columbia Road, Grovetown.

For information, call (706) 210-3603.

The Kazoobie Kazoo show

Rick Hubbard, the “King of Kazoo,” performs his musical act 10:30 a.m. **Nov. 3** at the Jabez Sanford Hardin Performing Arts Center, 7022 Evans Towne Center Blvd., Evans. His show features audience participation with children singing alongside him as he plays a variety of instruments. Free kazoos are given to all attendees. Admission: \$3 per person for Morris Museum of Art members and families with a military ID; \$5 for nonmem-bers.

For information call (706) 724-7501.

Georgia War Veterans’ Nursing Home Veterans Day observance

Observe the day with veterans from the facility 9 a.m. **Nov. 12** in their courtyard located at 1101 15th St. Guest speaker will be Col.

Jack Bryant, Fort Gordon chief of staff.

Veterans’ Day parade

Show your support and appreciation to the veterans of the Central Savannah River Area. The parade will be held 10 a.m., **Nov. 12** on Broad Street and will feature the Signal Corps Band and Fort Gordon marching units. The military grand marshal will be Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Foley, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commanding general.

CSRA Veterans’ Day ceremony

Observances of Veterans’ Day continue with this program 11 a.m., **Nov. 12** at the Monument of All Wars at the intersection of 4th and Broad Streets, down-town Augusta. The guest speaker will be Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Foley, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commanding general..

Augusta Historical Society’s Veterans’ Day observance

Held 1 p.m., **Nov. 12** on Riverwalk’s Heroes Overlook, Fort Gordon’s Signal Corps Band and joint service color guard will support this event. Show veterans how much they are appreciated by your attendance at this event.

Augusta Museum of History Brown Bag history series

At 12:30 p.m., **Nov. 14** history buffs can bring lunch and eat while you learn about the origin and role Bush Field played in World War II as a basic flying school, operated by civilians under contract for the Army Air Force.

Museum curator Guy Robbins will amaze you as he reveals this local history. Cost is free for members and \$3 for non-members. The museum is

located at 560 Reynolds Street, downtown Augusta.

For information call, (706) 722-8454.

Native American heritage month

The 15th Signal Brigade is hosting the Native American Heritage Month Command Program POW WOW noon **Nov. 29** on Barton Field.

Guest performers will be Touch the Earth with Native People.

For Information call (706) 791-6082.

Retirement Luncheon

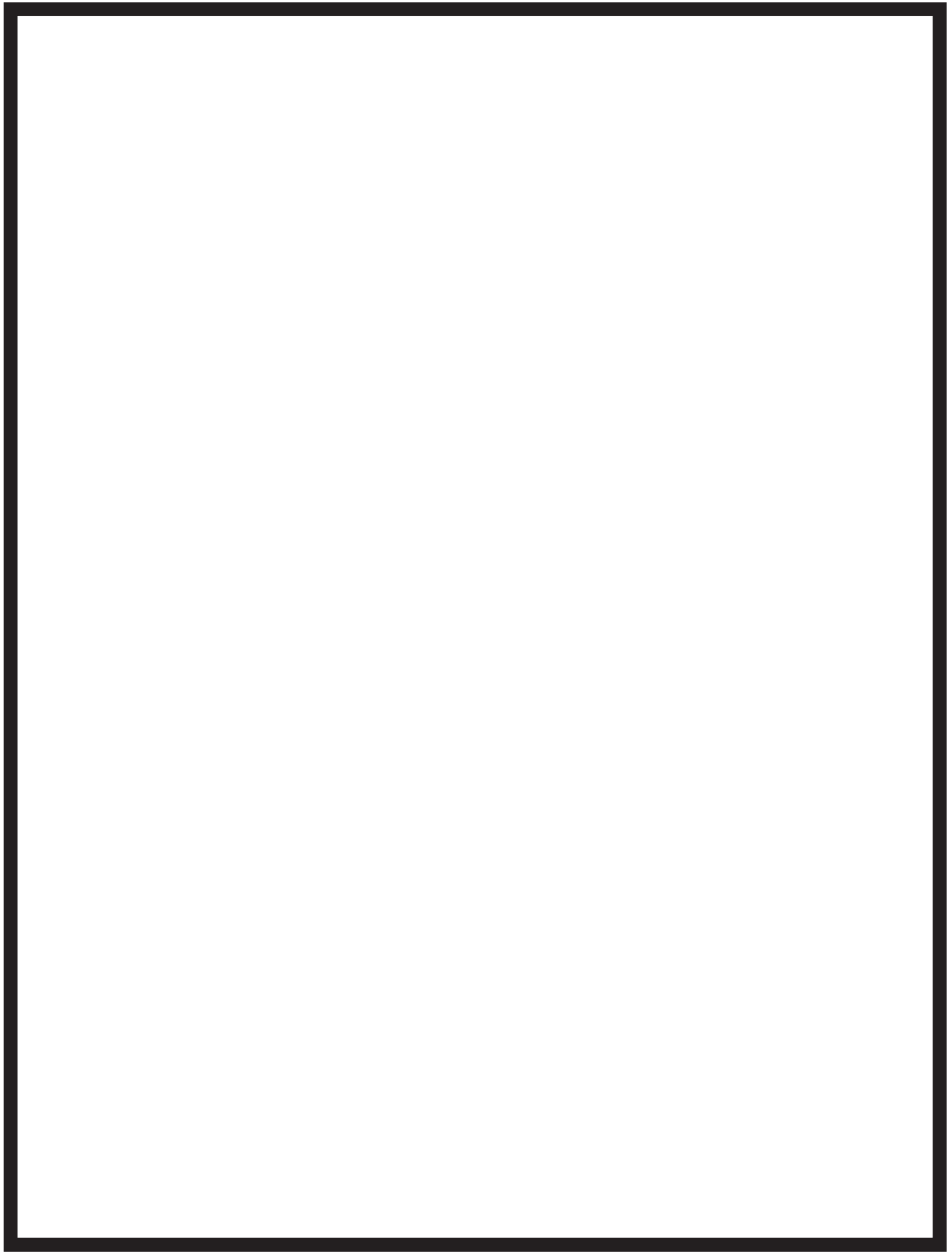
The retirement luncheon for Chief Warrant Officer Mark Gratton, technical director, School of Information Technol-ogy, is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., **Nov. 1** at the U.S. Army Reserve Center, Building 14401, located at the corner of 15th St. and Brainard Avenue. Cost is \$11 per person.

RSVP with money by 4 p.m. Oct. 19; call Warrant Officer Willie Guy at (706) 791-2210 or Terri Harlow at (706) 791-7913.

Concert performances

The United States Army Signal Corps Band and Augusta State University’s Wind Ensemble will perform at 7 p.m. **Nov. 1** at the Imperial Theater, 745 Broad Street, Augusta. The performance will feature the “Boogie Sisters” with a “Military Music Through the Ages” theme. The band will also perform 7 p.m., **Nov. 8** at the Imperial Theater with guest artist Mark Clodfelter, a world-class trumpeter. Together, they will perform the “Sonata for Trumpet.” Both events are free and open to the public on a first come, first served basis.

For information call (706) 791-3113.



Viewpoint

INFORMATION, OPINIONS AND COMMENTARY

New approach increases safety

Chris Frazier

U.S. Army Combat Readiness Safety Center

FORT RUCKER, Ala. — An engaged leader recently took a new approach in his efforts to increase safety and communication throughout his organization.

Lt. Col. David Jenkins, commander of the 78th Signal Battalion at Camp Zama, Japan, invited Soldiers, Department of Army civilians, contractors and local nationals to participate in the debriefing for the Army Readiness Assessment Program the organization completed several months ago.

The event marked the first time an entire battalion was included in the ARAP debriefing process, which was conducted a half of a world away via video teleconference at the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center. Up to this point, standard

debriefings were conducted between commanders and USACRC representatives over the telephone.

"I thought that rather than do this behind closed doors ... I'd have (the USACRC) give the exact same out-brief they gave me and make this a Family event, a team effort," Jenkins told his organization at the debriefing. "If everyone is involved in this, it will make our organization a better and safer place."

ARAP was designed as a battalion commanders' tool to address the root causes of accidental loss by focusing on organizational safety climate and culture. The 63-question assessment captures unit posture on command and control, standards of performance, accountability and risk management.

Through ARAP, individuals have the opportunity to anonymously tell their battalion com-

manders about things that are going well within the unit, as well as discuss what's not going as well without fear of retribution. For commanders, the program gives an indicator as to how well their unit is performing and its likelihood of having a severe mishap that results in loss of life or property.

In addition to the mishap indicators, the USACRC's ARAP experts provide leaders with tools that have proven effective in mitigating mishaps. That's important because units scoring in the bottom 25 percent are more likely than the top 25 percent to experience a Class A mishap. Additionally, data show the cost of lost equipment is greater for units who score in the bottom 25 percent than units scoring in the top 25 percent.

Once commanders are debriefed, they are required to back-

brief their unit and higher commander. This step informs the higher commander of the unit's status and also involves them in the process, allowing them to apply resources and guidance as needed and approve plans to mitigate further mishaps.

Since the inception of ARAP, more than 2,690 battalion commanders have reg-

istered for the assessment. This equates to more than 853,321 service members registered in the program, with completed assessments totaling 343,482 (40 percent). Of the 2,690 units in ARAP, 1,837 are active battalions, 673 are Reserve and 180 are National Guard units.

Jenkins said the Army is

losing the equivalent of two squads per month to needless accidents, and the experience and knowledge these fallen Soldiers take with them is something the Army can't afford to lose. He hopes measures such as the organization-wide ARAP debriefing will help keep his command safe.

Jenny by Julie L. Negron

Housework is hazardous...



Combatoons by Luke Marble



"Smoke"

Feedback...

By Bonnie Heater

What did you enjoy most about Oktoberfest?



I liked the guy in the big yellow chicken suit who tried to dance with everybody.
Pvt. Krista Goltra
551st Signal Battalion



It was good to see everyone having a good time.
Pvt. Anthony Dortmund
369th Signal Battalion



We enjoyed the rides the best.
Nadia and Emilio Aguirre
Military spouse and son



I enjoyed the German music played by the Signal Corps Band. I'm German myself so I know they are good.
Eva Proudfit
Retired military spouse



I liked doing the pumpkins; making faces (sic).
Jaedyn Kaufman
Military dependent



I like riding the horses [from Hilltop Stables].
Hayden Morgan
Military dependent

The Signal

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Too much texting injures thumbs

With the increasing use of the BlackBerry and other text messaging devices, more attention is being given to repetitive

motion injuries of the thumb.

The BlackBerry and similar devices typically have very small key-

boards which people tend to use exclusively with their thumbs. Thumbs don't have a lot of dexterity and aren't intended for

repetitive motion. Thumbs are meant to be used as stabilizers for gripping.

If you consider a full-sized keyboard, the dexterous fingers do all the typing and the thumbs only hit the large spacebar.

In 2005, the American Society of Hand Therapists issued a consumer alert warning users of small electronic gadgets that heavy thumb use could lead to injury. Over-use of the thumb can aggravate arthritis as well as contribute to musculoskeletal disorders such as tendonitis.



What you can do to avoid over-use injuries of the thumb:

1. Don't type any harder than necessary to activate the keys. Using excessive force can be fatiguing.
2. Be brief. Let people know you are replying from your BlackBerry and can email later.
3. Alternate muscles. If

possible, use more fingers to type so you aren't relying solely on your thumbs.

4. Utilize larger keyboards. Invest in a full size keyboard to plug into the device if used frequently.

5. Alternate input method. Try using a stylus to write or a pencil eraser to type to give your thumb a rest.

6. Take frequent breaks

and try to limit your duration of use. Stretching your hands can improve blood circulation and help reduce fatigue.

7. Avoid repetitive and forceful thumb movements.

8. See a physician if you experience pain or discomfort while using your handheld.

Courtesy of the Installation Safety Office



“Dear Chaplain”

Marriage & Relationship Advice Column

Dear Chaplain:

My husband and I have been married for 4 years, and we've had our ups and downs. Lately we've been having some communication problems and I've felt a huge distance between us emotionally. The other day I was going through our computer and found information on a "My Space" account that he created. I got into this account and I have been checking his e-mail account to read what people write to him and what he writes back. He has been talking to other women calling them his girlfriend and saying that he loves them. It really hurts me to read this and to hear him talk to these women the way he used to talk to me. I've tried addressing the problems between us, but it doesn't seem to go anywhere. If I talk to him about this "My Space" account and e-mail thing, then he'll know I was snooping. I don't know what to do from here.

Signed—My Space Mess

Dear My Space Mess:

What you are describing would be classified as inappropriate boundaries. When we marry, we enter into a cov-

enant relationship with our spouse to be faithful only to that person. We willingly set this boundary up to protect and preserve the marital relationship. Anything that crosses the line puts that relationship in jeopardy. In my practice, I have heard numerous stories about "My Space" accounts; most of them negative. While the internet and these "My Space" accounts can be good, mostly I have seen them do more harm than good. Obviously in this instance it is being used inappropriately. You stated that you have had ups and downs in your relationship which is normal for a young marriage of 4 years, but focused on communication problems that have led to an emotional distance you feel. So here is what I would recommend that you do. I would gently talk to your spouse on this "My Space" account and talk to him about the emotional distance you feel. My thought is that he is using this internet account/relationship to replace a need he has in his emotional life. If you both can identify the needs that each other has, then you have a foundation from which to work. I would also recommend couples counseling for you as that would help you both to have basic communication techniques to employ in your relationship. Contact your unit chaplain or consider taking the Marriage 101 course that is offered each month that teaches basic marital foundations.



For information on or to sign up for Marriage 101 call (706) 791-1732. If you have a relationship or advice question for the chaplain, e-mail Brian.L.Mead@gordon.army.mil. Please put relationship/advice column in the subject line. Please include name and contact phone number. Note: Your name will not appear in the column to protect your confidentiality and privacy. If you desire an appointment with Chaplain Mead, at Fort Gordon you can schedule one by calling (706) 791-1732.

Quarterly awards

The installation's quarterly awards ceremony will be held Thursday, Oct. 25, at 8:30 a.m. in the lobby of Conrad Hall.

The ceremony will honor the following individuals: Servicemember of the 3rd Qtr, FY07: Sgt. Reginald Dawson, III (U.S. Army Dental Lab); Volunteer of the Month for April 2007: Michelle Norwood (Fort Gordon Service Club); Servicemember of the 4th Qtr, FY07: Pfc Caleb Frazier (Company A, 206th Military Intelligence Battalion, 116th Military Intelligence Group);

NCO of the 4th Qtr, FY07: Sgt. 1st Class Marc Roberts (Company B, 447th Signal Battalion, 15th Regimental Signal Brigade); Instructor of the 4th Qtr, FY07: Sgt. 1st Class Jacob Neal (Company C, 551st Signal Battalion, 15th Regimental Signal Brigade); Civilian of the 4th Qtr, FY07: Sherry Haire, Family and Community Medicine, Eisenhower Army Medical Center; Volunteer of the Month for July 2007: Lisa Krug (Religious Support Office); Volunteer of the Month for August 2007: Staff Sgt. Eric Stratton

(Fort Gordon Dinner Theater, Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation); and Volunteer of the Month for September 2007: Elisabeth Grissom (Religious Support Office).

Norwood will not be in attendance. Grissom will be recognized at the January 2008 ceremony. Retention awards will also be presented to various units.

Everyone is encouraged to attend and congratulate these deserving individuals.

For more information, contact Linda Means, (706) 791-1871.

Chapel Call

Collective Protestant Services

Sunday Worship

9:00 a.m. – Liturgical Service, Bicentennial Chapel
9:30 a.m. – Contemporary Worship Service, Friendship Chapel
10:30 a.m. – Eisenhower Army Medical Center Chapel
Noon – Faith Gospel Service, Good Shepherd Chapel
11:00 a.m. – Bicentennial Chapel
11:00 a.m. – Friendship Chapel

Catholic Services

Daily, Tues – Fri, 11:45 a.m., EAMC Chapel
Daily, Tues. – Fri., noon, Good Shepherd Chapel
Saturday, 3:30 p.m., Confessions, Good Shepherd
Saturday, 5:00 p.m., Vigil Mass, Good Shepherd

Sunday Masses

8:30 a.m., Good Shepherd Chapel
10:00 a.m., Good Shepherd Chapel
11:45 a.m., EAMC Chapel

Jewish Activities

Holy Day, Sabbath and Daily
Services available off post
Capt. Shoenholz, 791-6109

Islamic Services

Jumah (Friday) Prayer Services Oct-Apr, from 12:45-1:30, and Apr-Oct from 1:15-1:45 – CPO (Ret) Abuwi - 772-4303

Denominational Services

LDS Service – Sunday 1:30-4:30 p.m., Friendship Chapel
LDS Representative is Mr. Wright - 364-6297

Religious Education

Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Protestant Sunday school, Religious Ed Ctr
Sunday, 11:30 a.m., Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) and Sacramental Preparation, Religious Ed Ctr (Sep-May)
Youth Groups and Other RE Programs, Mr. Dillard – 791-4703

Adult Bible Studies

Sunday, 9:30 a.m., Protestant Adult Studies, Religious Ed Ctr
Sunday, 11:30 a.m., Catholic "God and Coffee", Family Life Ctr
Tuesday, noon, EAMC Bible Study, Din Facility, 3rd floor
Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Prot Women of the Chapel, Bicentennial
Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Little Rock Study, Good Shepherd Chapel
Wednesday, 9:00 a.m., Prot Women of the Chapel, Bicentennial
Wednesday, 11:30 a.m., Post-wide Luncheon, Bicentennial
Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Discipleship Training, Friendship Chapel
Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., Faith Gospel Svc at Bicentennial Chapel
Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., LDS FHE, Rel Support Ofc, - 364-6297
Wednesday, noon, 513th at Motor Pool Conf Rm
Wednesday, 11:30 a.m., Jewish Study, 1st Wed, Friendship Chapel
Thursday, before 1st Friday, 6:30 p.m.,
Military Council of Catholic Women, Good Shepherd Chapel

Chapel Directory

Bicentennial Chapel, Bldg 28414, Brainard Ave – 791-2945
Good Shepherd Chapel, Bldg 29608, Barnes Ave – 791-4829
Faith Gospel Service – 791-5166
Friendship Chapel, Bldg 25603, Barnes Ave – 791-2056
EAMC Chapel, Hospital, 3rd floor - 787-6667
Chaplain Family Life Center Bldg 38804, Academic Dr - 791-7421
Religious Education Center, Bldg 39709, 39th St – 791-4703
Religious Support Office, Bldg 29601, Barnes Ave – 791-5653



Volunteer Corner

Interesting opportunities available

If you are interested in giving your time and efforts to any of the following volunteer opportunities in the Central Savannah River Area, contact Linda Means at meansl@gordon.army.mil. Provide your name, rank, organization, work and home telephone numbers. If your class is interested in accepting the cause as a community relations project, provide the complete names and ranks of each volunteer with a designated POC and contact info. For more information, call (706) 791-1871.

1st Annual Boshears Memorial Ground Loop Oct. 20

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Augusta is sponsoring 10K and Kids Fun Runs. Volunteer hours are 7 a.m. to approximately 11 a.m. Volunteers are needed to help with the operation of the event to include course set-up, registration, timers, track, safety and finish line monitors and traffic directors. The event will be held across from Daniel Field on Wrightsboro Road in the Daniel Village Shopping Center.

WARREN ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FALL CARNIVAL OCT. 26

The PTO is looking for volunteers to assist in operating this event which will be held from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the school grounds at 311 Warren Road, Augusta. Volunteers are needed from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. to help set-up, run concession stands and games, assist with parking and breaking down. Dinner will be provided.

YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY'S FAMILY DAY OCT. 27

The Youth Challenge Academy needs your help. Make this event successful by helping to prepare and serve food, assisting with parking and traffic control, running vendor booths and operating the rappel tower. Volunteer hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Freedom Park Elementary Safety Fair**

Oct. 27

Freedom Park Elementary PTO is looking for volunteers to assist them with this event. Volunteers would set up and tear down booths, grill food and clean up from 8 a.m. to approximately 2 p.m. at the school.

“Rivers Alive Cleanup”

Oct. 27

Want a free T-shirt and lunch? All individuals who volunteer in this community relations project will receive one for their efforts. Event is sponsored by the Augusta Canal Authority, Central Savannah Riverland Trust, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Georgia Forestry Commission, Savannah Riverkeeper and many others. Waterways throughout Columbia and Richmond Counties, including Lake Olmstead, the Augusta Canal and the Savannah River will be cleaned up. Cleanup will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 12 p.m. with lunch served from 12 to 1 p.m. The Georgia Forestry Commission will assign volunteers to a particular location. Volunteers should be sure to include their T-shirt size in your volunteer Email.

Alzheimer's Association's "Memory Walk" and Family Fun Fair Nov. 3

Volunteers are needed to assist with the "Memory Walk" around Lake Olmstead and the Family Fun Fair that immediately follows the walk. The walk begins and ends at Lake Olmstead Stadium on Milledge Road. Volunteers will set up and tear down tables and chairs, serve refreshments, put up and take down signs, direct parking and drive golf carts along the route to assist walkers. For the Family Fun Fair, they will also help with setting up and tearing down, manning ticket booths, game stations and concession stands. Volunteer hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please provide T-shirt size when responding to volunteer.

2007 Annual Parkinson's Walk-A-Thon Nov. 3

Volunteers are needed to assist the CSRA Parkinson's Support Group with hosting this event at the quarter mile track adjacent to the Family Y on Wheeler Road in Augusta. The money raised by the Walk-A-Thon will be distributed to the National Parkinson's Foundation and the Medical College of Georgia for ongoing research to combat this disease and to find a cure. Volunteer duties include setting up tables and a sound system, sorting T-shirts, controlling the track, helping with parking, assisting with snacks and soft drinks and cleaning up. Volunteer hours are 7:30 a.m. to noon. The actual walk kicks off at 9:30 a.m.

“Lights for Lydia Project” Nov. 3 and 10

The mission of “The Lydia Project, Inc” is to provide tote bags filled with practical and inspirational items of support to women undergoing cancer treatment. To raise money for these tote bags and items, a fundraiser is being held. Candles will be sold and lit as a sign of unity on Dec. 8. Show your support by volunteering to fill sand bags for this non-profit agency from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on either Nov. 3rd or 10th.

“Head of the South Regatta” Nov. 10

The Augusta Rowing Club needs your help with the operation of this boat race on the Savannah River from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. or 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Volunteers will assist with parking control, venue set-up and breakdown, running concession stands and launch drivers. Volunteers will be served lunch. If interested, send Email with the shift you prefer to work.



Photos by Spc. Stephen Alderete

Challenging youth

Sunny Parks, a self-made millionaire was guest speaker at the Manifest for Good Neighboring Day activities, Oct. 11 at the Youth Challenge Academy. Here he is speaking to a group of 236 cadets and the Academy cadre in Alexander Hall. Karen Handel, Georgia Secretary of State also spoke to the students. Each of the speakers shared their personal stories of struggle and triumph with the cadets. A Tae-Kwon-Do



demonstration was also held following presentations by the two speakers. Parks enthralled the youngsters with his story of how he came to America in 1974 with \$200 and went on to build a vast fortune. To encourage the youth he said, "If Sunny can do it, anyone can."

Early gift season

On Oct. 16, officials from the Fort Gordon Federal Credit Union presented 20, \$50 gift cards to the Fisher House to help defray costs as guests stay in the house over the holiday season. Present at the Fisher House during the checks presentation were *(left to right)* Kyle Lowe, Fort Gordon Federal Credit Union chief executive officer, Ashley Webb, Marketing and Business Development director, Francisco Cruz, Fisher House manager, Brig. Gen. Donald Bradshaw, commanding general Southeast Regional Medical Command and Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center, Col. John Holwick, Garrison commander and Command Sgt. Maj. Donna Brock, DDEAMC command sergeant major. The Fisher House is a non-profit home away from home for military Family members who have a loved one in the hospital. Fisher House also provides this service to the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Augusta.



Photo by Siobhan Carlile

Oktoberfest brings surprises

Charmain Z. Brackett
Correspondent

Kailey and Jonathan Mitchell looked a little surprised as they passed through one of the Oktoberfest tents Saturday.

Santa Claus greeted the siblings, commented on how much taller they'd gotten and gave them hugs.

Santa was among the hundreds of visitors to Oktoberfest at Fort Gordon.

"This is a wonderful event," said Steve Walpert, Fort Gordon's entertainment director of the Oct. 11-14 event.

Cool temperatures and clear skies made it a perfect weekend for such an event, he said.

"We could not have asked for a better day," he said.

The Oktoberfest celebration featured a variety of different activities including a carnival with games and rides, entertainment with a German flair, German food, a car show and the Fort Gordon Service Club annual fall flea market.

Organizers called the flea market a huge success with about 100 vendors participating.

"There's a little bit of everything out there," said Debbie Windhorn, flea market co-chairwoman.



Photo by Charmain Z. Brackett

Proceeds from the flea market benefit the club's scholarships and grants to area charities.

Walpert said the musical entertainment was another successful part of the festival.

Crowds didn't want to leave on Oct. 12, he said.

"Terry Cavanaugh and the Alpine Express is an Oktoberfest band and a party band," he said. "They play traditional German music and modern German music. They are popular and last night [Oct. 12] people had such a great time. It was a tribute to them."

For others, it was the carnival rides they enjoyed.

While most of the traffic was at the flea market, Lucy Ellis and P.J. Synenberg took advantage of a light Saturday morning carnival crowd to ride the Scrambler and other carnival rides.

"We came out to enjoy the fall festival," she said.



Photo by Bonnie Heater

P.J. Synenberg and Lucy Ellis ride the Scrambler during Fort Gordon's Oktoberfest Saturday. Jaedyn Kaufman, daughter of Shannon Kaufman enjoys a romp through the pumpkin patch.

Students adopt 63rd Signal Battalion

Charmain Z. Brackett
Correspondent

For students at Sardis Girard Alexander Elementary School in Burke County, the war in Iraq seems like a world away.

"I know they see it on TV," said Anna Herrington, first grade teacher, who decided to make it more personal to her students.

At first, she thought it would be just a class project, but the entire school got involved and has adopted the 63rd Signal Battalion. Each month, all of the students make items for

care packages sent to the troops.

The first package was mailed in September. In it were letters and pictures created by the children and a banner reading SGA Elementary Loves Our Troops.

Herrington said the exercise helps the children with their school work in learning how to write letters.

"It's more meaningful to them to write to someone," she said.

Not long after the package arrived, Herrington received a thank-you email from battalion commander, Lt. Col. Carlos

Morales.

"It is a great honor and pleasure to be adopted by Sardis Girard Alexander Elementary School," he wrote, adding that they were the first group to adopt the battalion.

He promised to deliver the letters to the Soldiers and said some of them would be posted in common areas. He said he'd find a place to hang the banner. Herrington said they plan to send monthly packages to the unit. They are currently collecting packages of tic-tac candies for the troops and hope to send more than 200 of them.

Herrington said she asked

for a wish list of small items they might be able to provide.

Morales sent a video of the battalion's deployment ceremony and said the Soldiers would send photographs to them.

"They were excited to hear back," said Herrington.

Children's theatre opens 20th season

Charmain Z. Brackett
Correspondent

Not long after the Army brought Rich Redding to Fort Gordon in January 2005, he was involved in productions with the Augusta Players and Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre.

"I've wanted to do this for a while," said Redding, who is no longer in the Army and is able to participate in Storyland Theatre's children's productions, held during the school day.

Beware What You Ask of A Fairy will open Storyland's 20th season beginning Tuesday. School-day shows are at 9:30 and 10:45 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. Oct. 23 through Oct. 26 at the Imperial Theatre. A Family matinee will be at 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 27.

Tickets for the weekday performances are \$4.50 per student with chaperones free; special rates are available for home school groups. Tickets for the Oct. 27 performance are \$5 each with active duty military Families admitted free with ID.

Redding plays Sean O'Casey who asks Maureen, played by Lacie Durden, to marry him. An evil stepmother tries to keep them apart, and some fairies are brought into the mix helping the characters learn to be careful what they wish for.

Although Redding has never been in a show strictly for children, he owes his interest in theater to a children's production.

"I remember when I was a kid, I saw a show, and said 'This is exactly what I want to do,'" he said.

Beware What You Ask of A Fairy is an original musical with the script created by Richard

Davis and the music by Susan Frank.

Reservations are required for weekday shows; for more information, call (706) 736-3455.



Photo by Charmain Z. Brackett

Rich Redding and Lacie Durden rehearse for their roles in the Children's Theatre production of Beware What You Ask of A Fairy

Congrats Class 07-003

Field grade leaders graduate


Siobhan Carlile
Signal Staff

Fort Gordon not only schools Signal Soldiers but also serves as a satellite campus to the Command and General Staff Officer Course located at Fort Leavenworth Kansas. Almost 60 students representing most if not all career field branches graduated Oct. 12 from the latest 16-week Intermediate Level Education Common Core Course. That diversity of branches is what one Judge Advocate General officer enjoyed the most. “One of the benefits of the course is to be able to interact with people serving in different fields,” said Maj. Jon Cheney, who is headed to Fort Hood where he will serve in a unit that supports the 1st Infantry Division. How to think, not what to think. That is just one of the goals of the ILE core curriculum. According to one instructor, Lt. Col. Pauline Haughton, the course provides students with a broad-based education including critical reasoning, leader assessment and improvement, how the Army runs, leadership, 20th century history, strategic studies, operational studies, and tactical studies. ILE field-grade student education relies heavily



on the experiential learning model for adult education, much like civilian graduate degree programs. That means working in small groups and producing high quality written work. “It was challenging, definitely graduate level studies,” said Maj. Trent Mills a transportation officer who is assigned to Fort McPherson, Ga. During the ceremony, 35th Signal Brigade Chaplain (Maj.) Gary Williams, also one of the graduates opened with an invocation referring to a proverb encouraging students to use a kind demeanor and how that relates to a clear pathway to

higher learning. Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Foley, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commanding general, serving as guest speaker offered the graduates an update to include the Army’s new theme, “America’s Army, the strength of the nation,” and at the same time gave special appreciation to the Families and children present. “I felt differently when I left Fort Leavenworth (CGSC), I thought differently,” he said referring to the Army’s intention to give field grade officers the opportunity and experience to “sit under the tree” so to speak, to take time to reflect about their place and service within the world, the Army and in their Families.



Holiday Food Voucher Program

Every year, the Installation Chaplain’s Office provides assistance to needy Service Members and Families through the Holiday Food Voucher program. This program provides vouchers of \$50.00 to Soldiers, redeemable at the Fort Gordon Commissary, immediately before Thanksgiving. Commanders and unit chaplains may submit nominations. Unit chaplains have already received the instructions and forms.

This program is funded entirely by donations. The amount of donations received will dictate the number of Service Members and Families assisted. Chapel congregations recently received designated offerings to support this program, but more funds are always needed. If you would like to make a donation to this worthwhile program, you may drop it by the Religious Support Office, Building 29601, Barnes Avenue, or you may give your donation directly to your unit chaplain. Make checks payable to the Fort Gordon Chaplain Tithes and Offerings Fund, and put “Holiday Food Voucher Program” in the memo line. Donations would be appreciated by Nov. 18. For more information call (706-791-5653).

Color

Family Readiness Group hosts support deployment fair

Capt. Sharron Stewart
35th Signal Brigade

The 35th Signal Brigade Family Readiness Group hosted a deployment fair on Oct. 11 at the Courtyard for the Families of the Soldiers of Company B, 63rd Expeditionary Signal Battalion. The Soldiers are scheduled to deploy to Iraq before the end of October. Approximately 130 Soldiers and their Families attended. The purpose of the fair was to inform Soldiers and their Families of the services available to them during a deployment. Several agencies participated in the event including the Woodworth Library, Armed Services YMCA, Adopt A Soldier-Grace Baptist

Church, Social Work Services, Child and Youth Services and the Defense Military Pay Office. Capt. Michael Burns, Company B, 63rd ESB commander, said the fair benefited his Soldiers by having so many agencies in one central location. "They sent people here who can answer questions of Soldiers and their Families," he said. He was appreciative that so many spouses took time off during the work day to attend. "There was even a mother who flew in from another state to attend," Burns noted. He went on to point out that even though the Soldier will be deployed, those agencies are committed to helping the Family and offering support.

According to Virginia Hindbaugh, the 35th Signal Brigade Family Readiness support assistant this is the second deployment fair that the Brigade has conducted. She observed that Soldiers have unique Family situations and it was the goal of the fair to be able to help them all. "The deployment fair actually offers the opportunity for those Soldiers to meet with any of the installation activities and their Family to meet with any of the installation activities or community organizations that will benefit them particularly." Hindbaugh noted the fair was attended by Beth Foley, wife of Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Foley, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commanding general and Laurie Baker, wife of Col. John Baker, 35th Signal Brigade commander.



Many Soldiers and their Families took advantage of the 35th Signal Brigade Family Readiness Group deployment fair on Oct. 11 at the Courtyard for the Families of the Soldiers of Company B, 63rd Expeditionary Signal Battalion.



Photos by Spc. Stephen Alderete

Retirement

from page 1

To the side of the door on the wall hangs yet another placard, "I believe...A Soldier is the most important person entering this facility...A Soldier is a person who brings me real needs and it is my job to help as expeditiously and courteously as possible." After a little more than 34 years of loyal service he is now stepping down. He officially retires Feb. 2, 2008. Until then he will be on permissive temporary duty and terminal leave. A formal departing ceremony will be held at the flag pole in front of Signal Towers at 9 a.m. Oct. 26. The command sergeant major, who assumed his position Nov. 2, 2002, is quick to say that he doesn't feel he has personally achieved any major accomplishments during his time here, but he has seen many major accomplishments by those he has worked with. "They transformed our Signal Regiment from Division Signal Battalions to small companies inside of Brigade-size units," said Terry. "They eliminated and created new [Military Occupational Specialties] MOSs to support our transformed/transforming Army and they changed our training to remain relevant to what our Signal Soldiers actually do in combat and to support combat operations. "We opened communication with the Regiment to enable them to provide feedback on what we're doing on Fort Gordon and make recommenda-

tions on changes," he added. "I believe that from [retired] Maj. Gen. Jan Hicks, Brig. Gen. Randy Strong, [both former Signal commanders] and now Brig. Gen. Jeff Foley, the Regiment has made communications from the schoolhouse to the foxhole, more frequent and open." The command sergeant major is an optimist and firmly believes the future remains bright for Signaleers. "Signal Soldiers are some of the very brightest that society has to offer and they never cease to amaze me," said Terry. "The equipment that they operate is complex, but they master it quickly and make it work in a very complex network. "In this Global War on Terrorism, our Army has been forced to take a calculated risk of providing very critical capability to units, whereby doctrine and training has not had time to be developed," he explained. "Our amazing Soldiers only need a manual to read, some time before they master that capability, and then they place it into the network. I believe we'll continue to reduce the number of our specialties as time goes by, concentrating on data, transport of that data, and a few other specialties." While Terry is confident about the future of the active duty Signal Soldiers he has some concerns about the Army's reserve component. "I believe we need to get our arms around the training for our Re-

serve Component brothers and sisters," he said. "Once a new [reservist or National Guard] Soldier leaves Fort Gordon and their Initial Entry Training, their further training falls on the Reserve Component to complete. We as an Army don't support them the same way we do the Active Component, but ask them to stand side-by-side with us on the battlefield and accomplish the same missions. I believe we need to give more attention to that side of our Army, if we are truly one team, one fight." Although the Command Sergeant Major would like to see improvements in the way the Reserve Component continues to receiving training he's pretty confident in the capabilities of his replacement. "Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Clark cares about Soldiers and their Families, and Civilians whether in government service or as contractors," said Terry. "He's genuine and brings a wealth of recent combat experience and youth to the job. He's also an effective communicator and has that great quality of being a great listener. "He enjoys being a Soldier and he laughs a lot," he added. "That's important to laugh a lot. I told him not to change the bathroom in the office, because that's where I hung the Nebraska national championship posters. Trust me; you [the Fort Gordon community] are going to enjoy Thomas and his wife Janice. They are great

Americans and totally genuine and caring human beings." The proud cornhusker and his wife Ginny, met in the summer prior to entering his freshman year in high school in Valentine, Nebr. and will be celebrating 34 years of marriage in December. According to Terry, it was Ginny who informed him when they were getting married. "It was during one of those infrequent phone calls made while I was in basic training and she was attending college that she told me we were getting married sometime between basic training and AIT," said Terry. "She'll deny that, but it's true. We married and loaded up our 1967 Chevy II and headed to good old Fort Gordon. The rest is history. Our two sons were born somewhere along that long journey in 1976 and 1977, and they have graced us with eight grandchildren along the way. It's a magic story and I wouldn't change any of it." The Terrys won't be leav-

ing the local area after he retires. They have purchased a home in North Augusta, S.C. Ginny, an alumna of Kearney State College, works at the Southeast Regional Dental Command and he plans on getting a job on post. He will be completing a bachelor's degree with Excelsior University with a concentration in history at the end of October. "I'd love to buy an RV, travel and have my retirement check sent to "occupant," but I know we will always be close to wherever our two sons, [Shane, an electrician living in Taylor, Texas, and Ryan, a Signal Warrant Officer stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C.,] and our grandkids are located," he said. The Terrys have enjoyed each of their assignments. "Every assignment was enjoyable, because Ginny and I made it enjoyable for ourselves," said the command sergeant major. "I wouldn't change a single second,

minute, hour, day, week or year." The proud warrior who started his Army career back in October 1973 as a 05C, radio teletype operator with Morse code, doesn't feel he'll miss being a Soldier. "I won't miss being a Soldier, because "I'll still be a Soldier," he explained. "I'll always be a Soldier in my mind and in my heart. I will, however, miss being around other Soldiers. There's just something about the brotherhood/sisterhood that has been forged over more than two centuries. Soldiers go through things together, that only they relate to. I'll miss being around the future of our Army and our nation." The Terrys have made a lot of friends while serving here. "Ginny and I would just like to thank everyone on Fort Gordon for allowing us to forge friendships, both personally and professionally," he added.



File photo by Marlene Thompson

Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Terry, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon command sergeant major, and his wife Ginny dance during the 2007 Signal Ball at the Gordon Club. Terry is retiring from the military after a career of 34 years.

Color page

Sports

Sports UPDATE

Yoga class

The Yellow Ribbon Room for spouses of deployed Soldiers will be hosting a Yoga class **Oct. 23** at the Family Outreach Center from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. The instructor is certified and mats will be available if you do not own one. Please pre-register as space is limited and for childcare (706) 791-3579.

Yoga is one good way of relaxation. It can ease the tension building in your muscles and joints without experiencing fatigue and overexertion.

If you have children, they must be registered at the Fort Gordon Child Care Center. Childcare is paid. Please call 791-3579 to make reservations for your children.

Basketball Classic

The 100 Black Men Of Augusta presents the 14th Annual Thanksgiving Basketball Classic **Nov. 23 - 24** at the Richmond Academy High School gym.

The high schools participating this year are Richmond Academy, Glenn Hills, L.C. Laney, Butler, South Gwinnett County, North Augusta, Strom Thurmond, Warren County, TW Josey, and Evans.

Additional events on Saturday include the slam dunk contest, three point contest, and dance groups at half-time.

Tickets are \$5.00 in advance and \$6.00 at the door. Tickets are available at all participating schools and Pyramid Music.

For more information contact Mack Bennett at (706) - 495 - 5335.

High school football tickets

Columbia County Schools want to honor our military and show appreciation for their dedication to the U.S.A. with free admission for active duty military to select Columbia County high school football games.

There will be free admission with active duty military I.D. at the Oct. 26 Greenbrier and Glynn Academy high schools' football game at Greenbrier, and the Nov. 9 Evans and Wayne County high schools' football game at Evans.

Games start at 7:30 p.m. Regular admission price is \$6 and \$1 for children ages 6 -10. Call (706) 541-2723 for more information.

Gordon Lakes Golf Courses

Enjoy 27 holes on the highly rated and exquisitely designed Robert Trent Jones, Sr. Gordon Lakes Golf Courses. The courses are open daily to the public with easy access during non peak hours 8 a.m to 4:30 p.m., and peak hours 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Call (706) 791-2433 to reserve a tee time or for general information.

Paintball course

The new paintball course hours are 10 a.m. on **Saturdays** and 1 p.m. **Sundays**, each day until dark.

Call (706) 228-5540 for more information.

Local Soldiers run 23rd Army Ten-Miler

Tim Hipps
Army News Service

Six Brazilian Soldiers and a woman who served in the Russian Army led a field of more than 17,000 runners in the 23rd Army Ten-Miler Oct. 7 at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

Spc. 1st Class Jose Ferreira de Janeiro outkicked fellow Brazilian Army Spc. 1st Class Reginaldo Campos Jr., over the final 100 meters to win America's largest 10-mile road race in 49 minutes, 21 seconds. There were 26,000 runners registered for the event.

Firaya Sultanova-Zhdanova, 46, a former soldier from Naberegmnie Chelni, Russia, who lives in Gainesville, Fla., won the open women's division with a female masters race record time of 58:31 on perhaps the hottest day in Army Ten-Miler history.

The lead pack of 10 male runners passed the 1-mile marker in 4:44. During the second mile, Ferreira and fifth-place finisher Tam rat Yale, a Kenyan running for Atlanta-based Team Foot Solutions, opened a 30-meter gap on the second pack of runners from Brazil, Kenya and

Ethiopia. They passed the 2-mile mark in 9:29.

Yale, who won the 2006 Potomac Half-Marathon, improved one spot on his fifth-place Army Ten-Miler finish in 2006.

"At nine miles, my legs weren't working well and I lost some speed," he said.

Four-time Army Ten-Miler women's champion Alissa Harvey was touched to be issued the number one bib, which usually is worn by the pre-race favorite to win the event.

"Getting the number one bib, as a female, I think is a wonderful thing," said Harvey, 42, USA Track and Field's 2007 Masters Female Athlete of the Year from Manassas, Va.

The Missing Parts in Action Team fielded military amputee

teams from Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.; Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston, Texas; and the San Diego Naval Medical Center. Along with a team of their physical therapists, it was MPIAs largest turnout in four years of participating in the event.

Team captain Maj. David Rozelle lost his right foot to an anti-tank mine in June 2003. After nine months of grueling rehabilitation, he was declared fit for duty and took command of the 3rd Armored Cavalry headquarters unit only one year after he lost his foot. He is the first amputee in recent military history to resume a dangerous command in the field.

"It is hard to believe that we are on our fourth year for this

Missing Parts in Action Team," Rozelle continued. "It's very motivational to run with the other Soldiers – a very powerful homecoming to know in the heart of your country."

First Lt. Ivan Castro, a former weapons sergeant in a Special Forces Group who remains on active duty, was blinded last September by fragments of a mortar round that landed about 5 feet to his left

eye. Although he lost his right eye, lost all vision in his left eye, and had his right index finger amputated, Castro completed the run while tethered to his training partner.

"I'm happy with my performance today," said Castro, 40, who finished in 1 hour, 25 minutes. "It's just been one year, one month, and five days since I was injured in Iraq. Last year, about this time, I was lying in bed with IV lines and external fixators and wound vaccinaries, so I'm happy with my recovery. This is a product of all the hard work that all of those personal did, and my loved

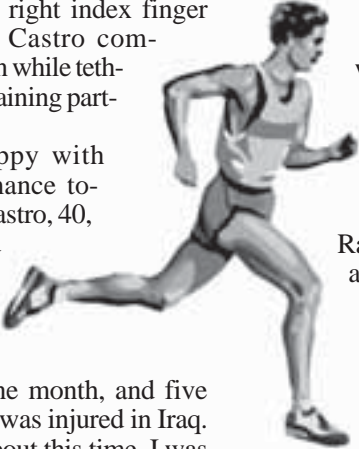
ones. With a little bit of will-power, motivation and determination, I was able to do this."

Stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C., Castro said he plans to return to Arlington Oct. 28 for his second race as a visually impaired runner in the Marine Corps Marathon.

The Fort Gordon 10-miler team from Augusta, Ga., placed second in the Open Mixed Division. Making up the eight member team is Charles Bolte, age 22, with a time of 1:00:15; John Baeza, age 26, with a time of 1:02:58; Daniel Welsh, age 31, with a time of 1:03:19; and Jessica Davenport, age 28, with a time of 1:15:30.

Other members of the team who placed were Glen Gunliffe, age 32, with a time of 1:15:14; Deborah Greer, age 38, with a time of 1:16:27; Ralph Gaines, age 47, also the team's coach, came in with a time of 1:19:40; and Rachel Winsor, age 23, completed the race with a time of 1:25:59.

All proceeds from the Army Ten-Miler support programs of the Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command, based in Alexandria, Va., for Soldiers and their families.



Unit Level Flag Football standings as of Oct. 5

TEAM	WINS	LOSSES	PF	PA	DIFF	PCT
BLACK 07						
C-551	8	0	138	58	80	1.000
DENTAC	7	2	148	52	96	0.778
A-73	5	3	132	75	57	0.625
BNCOA (A)	4	4	61	100	-39	0.500
A-447	3	6	59	114	-55	0.333
35TH MP	2	7	108	172	-64	0.222
A-297	1	8	68	143	-75	0.111
GOLD 07						
NAVY	9	1	218	85	133	0.900
BLACK KNIGHTS	6	2	159	98	61	0.750
BNCOA (B)	4	3	175	102	73	0.571
338 TRS	4	3	54	48	6	0.571
DDEAMC	4	6	160	198	-38	0.400
C-73	3	6	107	151	-44	0.333
COBRA	0	9	57	232	-175	0.000
GREEN 07						
B-73	10	1	143	50	93	0.909
B-447	6	2	149	88	61	0.750
B-63	5	3	93	53	40	0.625
B-442	4	6	99	103	-4	0.400
D-369	3	5	75	95	-20	0.375
DESERT KNIGHTS	0	7	18	151	-133	0.000
MORNING 07						
B-447	5	1	147	63	84	0.833
C-551	2	3	74	98	-24	0.400
B-73	1	4	46	106	-60	0.200

Successful catch

Terrance Dixon, #5 on the 338th Training Squadron's team [the Dark Knights] successfully catches the pass despite the best efforts of Cobra's #34 player during the 6 p.m. Unit Level Flag Football Gold 07 Division game held at Field #1 Oct. 10.



Photo by Bonnie Heater



Photo by Ed Toelle

Dance support

Angela Toelle, (front right) the daughter of Ed Toelle of the Fort Gordon Public Affairs Office, practices a dance routine with other members of the Lady Lynxs who will perform at the opening game of the Augusta Lynx Ice Hockey team's 10th Anniversary season at 7:35 p.m. Oct. 19 at the James Brown Arena in downtown Augusta. This event is a fundraiser for the Medical College of Georgia and the children's wing of the MCG hospital.



Photo by Bonnie Heater

Fitness tips

Pfc. Weston Moore, assigned to Company B, 551st Signal Battalion, gets some fitness tips from Aly Fronk, who was recently named Miss Freestyle Fitness 2007, during Membership Appreciation Day at the Powerhouse Gym, located at 29607 Barnes Avenue. The event featured free fitness assessments, refreshments and massages from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 13. Fronk is also Miss Ujena Model of the Year, Miss Hawaiian Tropic-Cancun and a model for Reebok, Nordic Track and Corona.



Fort Gordon firefighters take national win



Photos by Spc. Stephen Alderete
Firefighter Brandon Cunningham lifts a hose roll up a five story tower during the 2007 Scott Firefighter Combat Challenge National Championship in Atlanta Oct. 12.

Tammy Moehlman
Signal Staff

The Fort Gordon Firefighter Combat Challenge Team blazed through the Scott Firefighter Combat Challenge National Championship for a first place finish. Team members Brandon Cunningham, Jeffrey Phillips, Marcus Peterson, Anthony Dobbins, and Matt Williams claimed the position of top national relay team for 2007. The team finished a half-second off of the World Record.

Over forty teams traveled from as far away as Alaska to compete in Atlanta. In the end the finals

were dominated by Georgia teams. Fort Gordon challenged Clayton County with a 3 second lead and final time of 1 minute and 8 seconds.

Firefighter Brandon Cunningham won the national title with a time of 1 minute 24 seconds to add to his 2006 world title that he will defend Nov. 4 - 8 at the World Championships in Las Vegas, Nev.

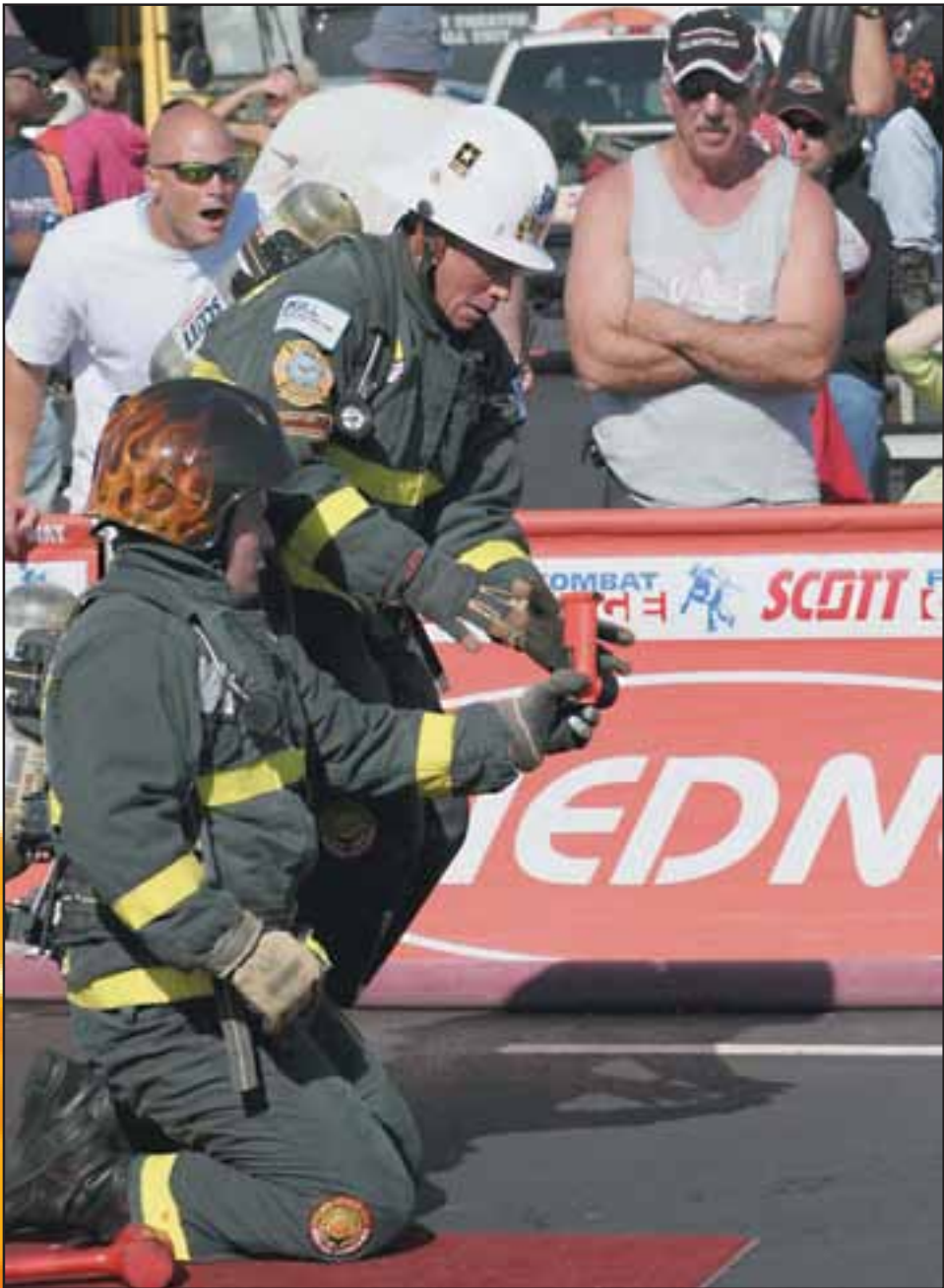
Assistant Chief Matt Williams placed second in the over 45 category with a time of 2 minutes and 1 second. Williams has a great shot at a win at the World Championship.

The World Championships will be shown on Versus (the old OLN network). To learn more about the challenge go to <http://firefighter-challenge.com/>.



Fort Gordon Firefighter Jeffrey Phillips approaches the Keiser sled during the 2007 Scott Firefighter Combat Challenge National Championship.

(Front to back) Fort Gordon Firefighter Jeffrey Phillips passes the baton to assistant chief Matt Williams after finishing the Keiser sled team relay competition during the 2007 Scott Firefighter Combat Challenge National Championship. The Fort Gordon Combat Challenge team won the relay nationals.



Fort Gordon Firefighter Anthony Dobbins applies water to a target during the 2007 Scott Firefighter Combat Challenge National Championship.

